

hardly ever been found in man except in lupus, and it is worthy of note that seven of the eight cases of scrofuloderma from which they were obtained were suffering or subsequently suffered from some form of lupus. In the magnificent series of 1068 fully tested cultures of tubercle bacilli from human disease which Dr. Griffith and his collaborators have examined during the last ten years, these "attenuated" strains have occurred 46 times—in 36 out of 45 cases of lupus, in 8 of 52 cases of scrofuloderma, once in a cervical gland, and once in an intermuscular abscess; 24 have proved human and 22 bovine in type. We could wish that all bacteriological facts rested on such ample and strictly comparable data.

THE STORY OF SALVARSAN.

It is possible to take the story of the war emergency in organic arsenical compounds one stage further back than was done in our leading article last week. In September, 1914, Dr. W. H. Willcox was consulted by the Board of Trade in regard to the serious situation which had arisen, no salvarsan being then available in England. Dr. Willcox, in collaboration with Professor Sir Herbert Jackson, F.R.S., and Professor A. W. Crossley, F.R.S., carried out a laborious investigation on samples of kharsivan submitted by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., as a result of which it was established that this product, toxicologically and clinically, was practically equal to salvarsan. Their report was issued on Oct. 24th, 1914, and following upon it kharsivan was placed on the market. Afterwards the routine testing was handed over to the Medical Research Committee.

The Minister of Health has added to the Committee on Medical Records Mr. G. S. W. Epps, F.I.A., to represent the department of the Government Actuary.

The house and library of the Royal Society of Medicine will be closed from Thursday, April 1st, to Tuesday, April 6th, both days inclusive.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO DISTINGUISHED CHESTERFIELD MEDICAL MEN.

A complimentary dinner was held under the chairmanship of Dr. R. A. M. L. McCrea on March 11th by the medical profession of Chesterfield and district in honour of Sir Josiah Court, recently knighted, and Surgeon-Major A. W. Shea, D.S.O. Sir Josiah Court, in reply to the toast of his health, told a story typical of student wit. At Guy's in his student days Partridge, the famous surgeon, had a horse with a very long neck; so the students christened it "Longus colli"! Later he got another horse, and this one happened to have a very broad back. It was promptly dubbed "Latissimus dorsi"! In course of time this horse also disappeared, and he got another which was thoroughly well built and presented nothing upon which to "hang a label." However, the student ingenuity was not to be beaten, and one day a super-wit conceived the delightful name of "Os innominatum," by which title the horse was ever after known. In responding to the toast of "The Visitors," Professor Arthur Hall congratulated Surgeon-Major Shea on his recent honour, and pointed out that he was the senior past student of the Sheffield School of Medicine to gain a distinction on active service. A review of the distinctions gained during the war by members of the school showed a very fine record: one V.C., one C.M.G., two D.S.O.'s, one M.C. with bar, five M.C.'s, seven mentioned in despatches. The foreign decorations included the Croix de Guerre (won by a woman) and the Order of St. Sava of Serbia. The actual percentage of honours amongst the 254 old students who joined the school between 1888 and 1913, and are still living and in practice, came out, said Professor Hall, to little short of 8 per cent.

THE EGYPTIAN LUNACY DIVISION REPORT.¹

THE review of the Report of the Lunacy Division from Egypt is very full and informing, agreeing in these respects with the last report.² There is great overcrowding in the institution, and, as a consequence, the premature discharge of patients results in relapse or recurrence of mental disorder, and, what is worse, we have criminal attacks of partially recovered patients, who have no longer to be treated as ordinary lunatics but as criminal lunatics. These are the salient features of the document.

The Need for More Asylums.

Dr. J. Warnock, the head of the lunacy work, sketches out some big plans as to other asylums which should be started as soon as possible. The idea that the lunatics in Egypt were very imperfectly provided for was perceived by Lord Cromer, who also recognised that there was not only a want of provision for patients, but (which, he said, was a much more important thing) a want of financial means to carry out any large measure of reform. Dr. Warnock considers that, besides another large asylum somewhere in the neighbourhood of Alexandria, there should at least be an asylum for male criminal lunatics; also an asylum for chronic, evidently incurable, but quiet lunatics, and that proper separate provision for European lunatics is needed. He also thinks that reception wards should be provided, probably in association with general hospitals, in various provincial towns. The central reception-houses should certainly be in Cairo and Alexandria, but provincial asylums also are necessary. When it is reckoned that not one-fourth of the insane in Egypt can possibly be cared for in the present asylums, it will be seen that Dr. Warnock's suggestions are quite reasonable. But, as in Lord Cromer's time, the financial difficulties will probably hinder the development of this scheme.

A short special note is made of the military asylum which was established to meet insanity occurring in the troops, as well as of the asylum at Abbasiya, which receives patients of both sexes, chiefly from Cairo and the neighbourhood, including criminal lunatics. At Khanka a certain number of the more quiet patients—all males, by the way—are sent from Cairo. At this asylum the majority of the non-city dwellers are received, the result being that a different class of patient and a different class of disease is met with in the two asylums.

There was during the last year a great increase in the number of female patients. Provision of accommodation for several classes of paying patients has steadily progressed. As has been noted before in these columns, the lunacy reports, both by Dr. Warnock and Dr. H. W. Dudgeon, are models of clearness and accuracy. All details as to expenditure are given, and the scientific work is not overlooked, though during recent years it has been greatly hindered by war conditions. The death-rate is high; as Dr. Warnock points out, the rate is 21 per cent. in Egyptian asylums.

Chief Causes of Insanity in Egypt: the Prevalence of Pellagra.

Pellagra again is represented as the chief cause of the insanity met with in Egypt, and in respect of the high mortality a special study has been made as to the relationship of pellagra to diet. This is referred to later. As to the overcrowding, in April, 1919, there were 2075 lunatics resident, whereas there was only accommodation for 1581. This leads to a high mortality-rate, a high disease-rate, a high accident-rate, and a low recovery-rate. The British staff, both medical and lay, is small, and was reduced by men being called up for war service.

In the special hospital for soldiers, during the year 125 men were admitted. Of these only five died. In

¹ Report of the Ministry of the Interior, Egypt, Lunacy Division, 1918, at Abbasiya and Government Hospital for the Insane at Khanka.

² See THE LANCET, 1919, i., 117.

the 125, dementia præcox is represented by 27, delusional insanity by 25, melancholia 19, mania only 7. Most of the other forms of insanity were represented by quite small numbers. Nothing very noteworthy is said as to the causation of these cases, but heredity is given as being evidenced in 39 of the patients.

Of the patients admitted as criminals, pellagra produced 8. Theft and attempted murder were the chief crimes. There were under observation during the year 404 criminal men, 35 criminal women. 380 patients were released before recovery to make room for more acute cases. There is always a rise in the admission-rate in both hospitals for the insane when warm weather begins in April, and the admission-rate falls with the rising of the Nile and the onset of cooler weather.

As to the forms of insanity, pellagra ranks first. alcohol and epilepsy are also potent influences. General paralysis of the insane produces a good many patients among town-dwellers, so there is a much larger proportion of such cases at Cairo than at Khanka. Both men and women are represented, more women in proportion to men than are found in English asylums.

An interesting table shows the various areas in Egypt which produce the largest number of patients suffering from pellagra. Pellagra accounts for 23 per cent. of the female admissions and for 35 per cent. of the deaths among the women. Hashish produces some cases, these coming chiefly from Cairo.

Treatment: the Absence of Restraint.

A report is given of the treatment and the number of patients who are artificially fed. Again the astonishing fact is brought out that during the year no restraint whatever was used. There were very few accidents, and these only of a very trivial kind. The Wassermann test was applied at the Government pathological laboratories, and the results are certainly remarkable if they are to be taken as definite evidences of syphilis. Of the cases of general paralysis of the insane one is surprised to find that only 62 per cent. of the males gave a positive reaction, whereas 83 per cent. of the females gave a similar reaction. In other forms of insanity, especially those coming from Cairo, a very large proportion of positive reactions occurred. For instance, in cases of pellagra 30 per cent. of the men, 22 per cent. of the women, gave a positive reaction. Of 554 cases of all varieties of insanity admitted, who were tested, 28 per cent. gave a positive Wassermann reaction. This certainly is a very astonishing result.

The Government Hospital at Khanka.

At Khanka Dr. Dudgeon also had overcrowding. Here much development is proceeding, though this was delayed to a certain extent during the last four years in consequence of the war. Not only have further buildings been developed, but a great deal has been done in the way of irrigation and tree-planting, so that this desert place is becoming an oasis.

Few hypnotics were used, and no seclusion, the large grounds and out-of-door occupations being found sufficient provision for discipline. Of course, the great advantage of Khanka over Cairo is that there is a large agricultural estate. Though Dr. Dudgeon was short-handed in the matter of staff, he managed admirably. The farm has been a financial success, besides supplying an enormous amount of useful food, both for Cairo and for Khanka.

Influenza, which was epidemic, added greatly to Dr. Dudgeon's work. Besides this, he reports that there were 30 cases of a febrile disorder which he took to be dengue.

His report upon pellagra is disappointing reading. He said little good, if any, followed any form of treatment, although every variety was tried. The symptoms were taken and dealt with one by one, and yet the patients gradually died. He says emphatically once a sufferer from pellagra always a sufferer; that though there may be remissions—in some cases prolonged remissions—yet he is inclined so think the disease always recurs and, sooner or later, ends in death.

He reported four cases of datura seed poisoning. This is a new form of poisoning to British observers.

A most interesting table is given as a result of the examination of the stools of 80 consecutive cases for parasites. Of these, 49 gave positive results for various types of worm, *ascaris lumbricoides* heading the list with 25; *ankylostoma*, 8; *bilharzia*, 5; *oxyuris*, 5; *trichocephalus*, 4; and *distoma hepaticum*, 1.

Admissions and Discharges.

The usual tables of admissions and discharges are given. Of the 365 admissions, 72 owed their insanity to pellagra, and 71 to the abuse of alcohol or drugs. There were more maniacal cases here than at the parent institution. Very interesting tables, of purely local interest, refer to the districts from which the various patients were derived. In the tables of treatment a considerable increase in the use of narcotics is recorded, thus contrasting with Cairo hospital. But this Dr. Dudgeon considers to be purely a temporary matter, due to overcrowding.

In Dr. Dudgeon's report we have to notice the most satisfactory tables with details of medical and material administration, and one must congratulate him on the success of his work during trying and strenuous times.

In Part VII. of the report Professor Wilson gives a very full report on asylum diet. Though this is specially made with reference to Egypt, when circumstances make diet especially important, yet the physiological information contained in it has universal application. He recommends the addition of 45 g. of meal and 50 g. of milk to the ordinary ration. As so much more is now understood in reference to the deficiency diets and the vitamins similar observations might be made in British asylums.

Summary.

So that, to sum up, the Report of Lunacy in Egypt is satisfactory as far as the report is concerned. But the wants and the requirements are very great, and, with the disturbed state of the country, it seems that the work of the English administrators is greatly increased. Dr. Warnock, when he was in England recently, pointed out that the position of himself and other Europeans was not free from danger. We trust that the troubles will pass, and that once more there will be steady progress in relationship to lunacy in that country.

APPEAL FOR LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.

WITH a vision and courage that cannot fail to command the admiration of all who are interested in higher education, the University of Liverpool has launched an appeal for the sum of £1,000,000. The moving spirit behind this bold venture is the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor J. G. Adami, who, acquainted at first hand with the largesse bestowed upon the universities on the other side of the Atlantic, is seeking to awaken a similar generosity in and around Liverpool.

To mark the inauguration of the scheme a meeting was held in the Town Hall on March 12th. Lord DERBY (Chancellor of the University), who was prevented from attending, sent an appeal which was read at the meeting. It shows that this year the number of students availing themselves of the privileges of the University is more than double the total before the war. As a consequence the resources of the University are strained to the utmost, while each Faculty has had to refuse many students. The immediate needs are more class-rooms, laboratories, and workshops for students in chemistry and physics, engineering and electricity. The library, which may be termed the laboratory of the Arts students, must be enlarged. The great increase in the size of the classes calls for a corresponding increase in the staff of professors, lecturers, and demonstrators; and as students are pouring in from the surrounding districts it is necessary, if they are to enjoy that corporate life which ought to be a feature of all university education, to procure hostels or halls of residence for their accommodation. Provision must also be made for athletic grounds and a well-equipped gymnasium. The appeal concluded:—

"The University of Liverpool has proved its use. It is no longer in the experimental stage. I call upon all in our